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Central Intelligence Agency

APPROVED FOR RELEASE ☐
DATE: 02-Apr-2009

Washington, D.C. 20505

OCA FILE: SSPOW
RECEIPT #: _____OCA 0184-92
23 JAN 1992

The Honorable John F. Kerry
Chairman
Select Committee on POW/MIA Affairs
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Mr. Chairman:

The Director has asked me to respond to your letter of December 20, 1991 which requested information on former senior Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) personnel in Laos and Vietnam and on US citizens who had not returned from Laos from 1961 to the present as a result of assignments in or over Laos prior to 1975.

The full names of CIA Chiefs of Station
Vientiane from 1961

The Agency possesses two lists relating to US citizens who have not returned from Laos during the period 1961 to the present. The first is the DIA list of "US Unaccounted for in Southeast Asia." The second is a list compiled at CIA Headquarters on September 30, 1969 entitled, "American Air Contractor Operating Crew Fatalities (in) Laos, 1961 to Present." A copy of the second list is enclosed. That list showed two American civilians as missing in Laos: Air America employee, Eugene H. DeBruin, who is still listed as missing; and Bird & Son employee, Ernest Brace, who returned on March 28, 1973.

We have reviewed our files but have not located any lists received by the United States Government from foreign governments, contacts or individuals which relate to US individuals who have not returned from Laos. We will be reviewing a considerable volume of archived files in the coming week and will advise the Committee if any material on this subject is located.

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The Honorable John F. Kerry

In addition to the 1969 list of "American Air Contractor Operating Crew Fatalities (in) Laos, 1961 to Present" mentioned above, the following US citizens, all of whom were working for Air America, did not return from Laos:

| <u>Name</u> | <u>Date Lost</u> | <u>Country</u> | <u>Type of Aircraft</u> |
|--------------------|------------------|----------------|-------------------------|
| James H. Ackley | 7 Mar 73 | Laos | C-123 |
| Eugene DeBruin | 5 Sep 63 | Laos | C-46 |
| Clarence Driver | 7 Mar 73 | Laos | C-123 |
| George Ritter | 27 Dec 71 | Laos | C-123 |
| Roy Townley | 27 Dec 71 | Laos | C-123 |
| Edward Weissenback | 27 Dec 71 | Laos | C-123 |

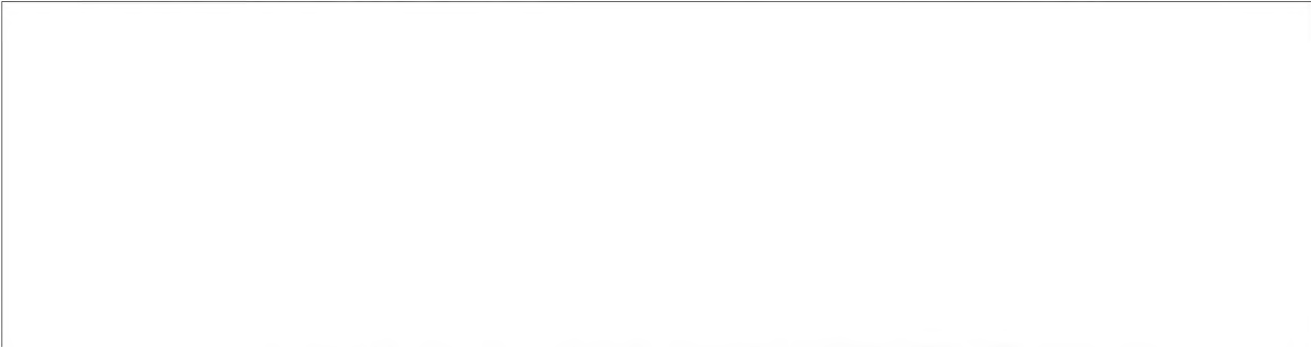
All six of these individuals also appear on the DIA listing of "US Unaccounted for in Southeast Asia." Of the above individuals, DIA lists DeBruin as a POW. Ackley, Driver, Ritter and Townley are listed as missing in action. There is a presumptive finding of death in Weissenback's case.

The other American civilians who remain missing in Laos had no affiliation with the Agency. They are Charles Duffy, who disappeared in 1961, and on whom there is a presumptive finding of death; Charles Dean, captured in 1974, whose gravesite has been identified in Laos; and Alan L. Blewett, lost while flying in a Navion aircraft in 1962, on whom there is also a presumptive finding of death.

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The Honorable Bob Smith



A copy of this letter is also being provided to
Chairman Kerry.

Sincerely,

/s/ Stanley M. Moskowitz

Stanley M. Moskowitz
Director of Congressional Affairs

Enclosures

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OCA 0184-92

**SUBJECT: Letter to Senators Kerry/Smith re Laos and POW/MIA
Issue - Ltr of 20 Dec 91**

(22 Jan 92)

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Central Intelligence Agency

Washington, D.C. 20505

OCA 0184-92/1

23 JAN 1992

The Honorable Bob Smith
Vice Chairman
Select Committee on POW/MIA Affairs
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Mr. Vice Chairman:

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The Honorable Bob Smith

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| Clarence Driver | 7 Mar 73 | Laos | C-123 |
| George Ritter | 27 Dec 71 | Laos | C-123 |
| Roy Townley | 27 Dec 71 | Laos | C-123 |
| Edward Weissenback | 27 Dec 71 | Laos | C-123 |

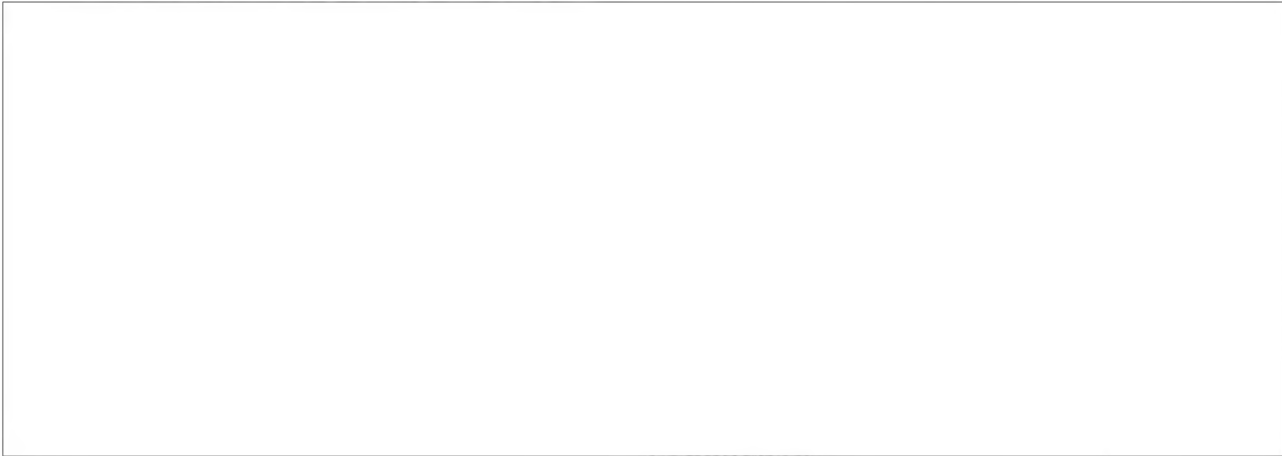
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The Honorable John F. Kerry



Sincerely,

/s/ Stanley M. Moskowitz

Stanley M. Moskowitz
Director of Congressional Affairs

Enclosures

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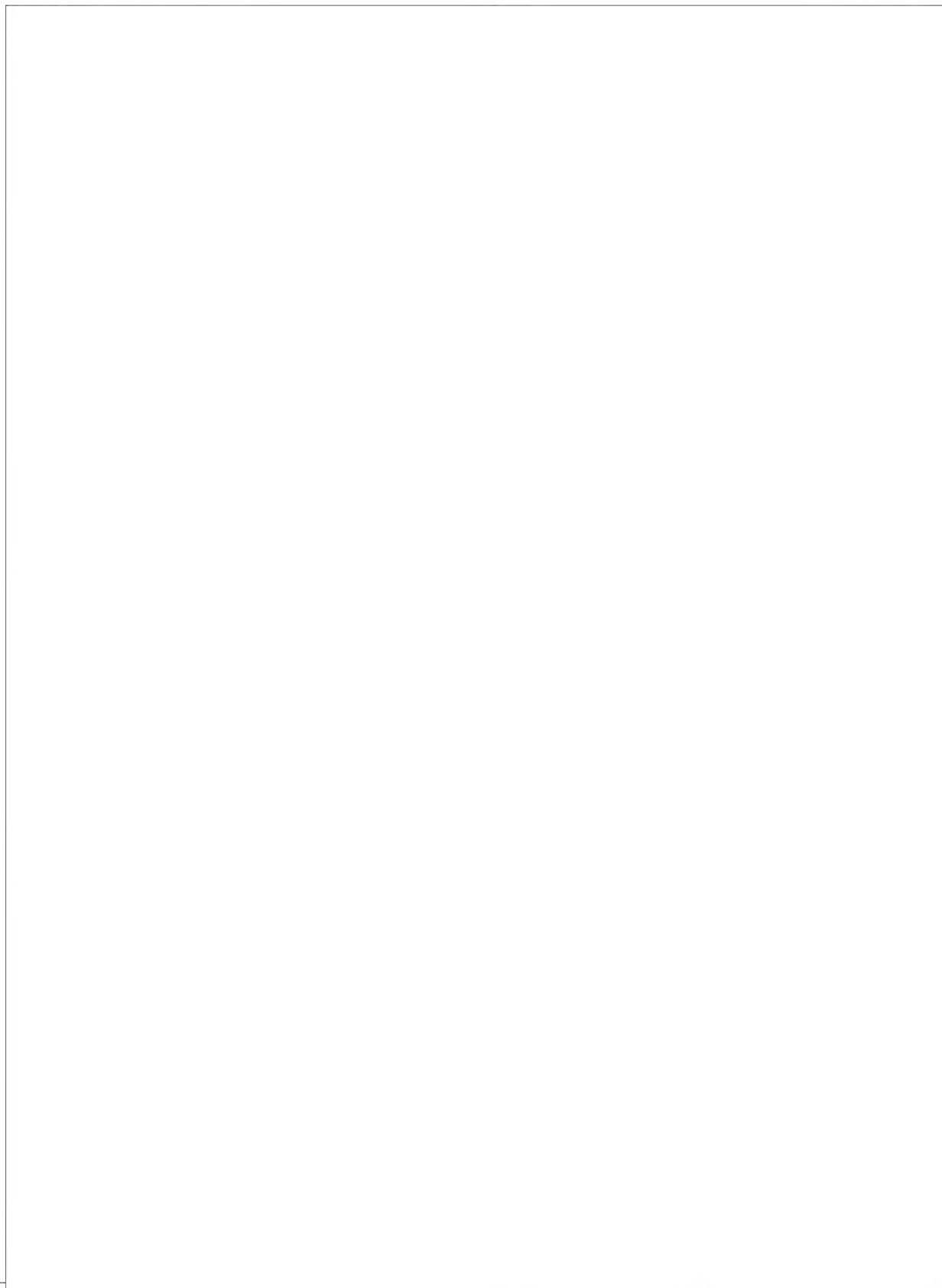


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30 September 1969

MEMORANDUM FOR:

SUBJECT : American Air Contractor Operating Crew
Fatalities Laos, 1961 to Present

| | | |
|--------------|-------|------------|
| AIR AMERICA | 42 | 1 captured |
| BIRD & SON'S | 7 | 1 captured |
| CONTINENTAL | 8 | |
| | <hr/> | |
| TOTAL | 57 | |

- (1) Breakdown by accident presently not available but can be furnished within 48 hours.
- (2) Bird & Son's totals probably correct but may be off by 1 or 2.

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1963 - Air Freight Specialist Debruin C-46 flight was
shot down and Debruin was captured.

Bird & Son's

21 May 1965 - Mr. Ernest Brace captured by enemy forces
in Northwestern Laos when he landed at airfield
which had been captured during the night by
enemy forces. Mr. Brace is believed to be a POW
in Hanoi area. ~~No other fatalities this~~
accident.

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~~SECRET~~~~SECRET~~BIRD & SON'S AMERICAN FATALITIES

| <u>DATE</u> | <u>NAME</u> | <u>LOCATION</u> | <u>EQUIPMENT</u> | <u>REASON</u> |
|----------------|--------------|-----------------|------------------|-----------------|
| 1 October 1961 | 2 Americans | Phou Fa | P2V | Flight Accident |
| 1962 | 1 American | Laos | CAMAIR | Flight Accident |
| 1963 | 2 Americans | Laos (Phou Fa) | C-46 | Flight Accident |
| 1963 | Jerry Easter | Laos | Porter | Flight Accident |
| 25 Aug. 1965 | Pat Doran | Ta Vieng | Helio | Flight Accident |

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| <u>DATE</u> | <u>NAME</u> | <u>LOCATION</u> | <u>EQUIPMENT</u> | <u>REASON</u> |
|--------------|-------------------------|-----------------|------------------|--|
| 25 Nov 1960 | Jon C. Mackay | Savannakhet | C 46 | Flight Accident |
| 3 Oct 1965 | Frank MacCall | Luang Prabang | C 123 | Flight Accident |
| 17 July 1963 | Gerald MacCall | Saysaboury | C 46 | Flight Accident |
| Nov 1962 | Fredrick Riley | PDJ | C 123 | Ground Fire |
| 24 Aug 1964 | Albert Sandovall | Savannakhet | Helio-Courier | Flight Accident |
| 17 July 1963 | George A. Varney | Saysaboury | C 46 | Flight Accident |
| 19 May 1966 | John Willott | Rear Na Khang | H 34 | Flight Accident - Possibly Ground Fire |
| 30 May 1961 | Walter F. Wierowski | Pha Dong | H 34 | Flight Accident |
| 30 May 1961 | Charles H. Mateer | Pha Dong | H 34 | Flight Accident |
| 13 Aug 1961 | Norwood N. Forte | Pa Khao | C 46 | Flight Accident |
| 13 Aug 1961 | Roger J. Sarno | Pa Khao | C 46 | Flight Accident |
| 4 Feb 1962 | Herbert S. Strouss | PDJ | C 46 | Ground Fire |
| 4 Feb 1962 | Howard F. Heinrich | PDJ | C 46 | Ground Fire |
| 6 April 1962 | William H. Beale, Jr. | Xiang Dat | L 20 | Flight Accident |
| 6 April 1962 | George R. Varney | Xiang Dat | L 20 | Flight Accident |
| 22 July 1962 | Charles T.D. Diefenbach | Phou Bia | Helio | Ground Fire |

FLIGHT MECHANICS

| | | | | |
|------------|------------|---------|------|-----------------|
| 8 Aug 1967 | Earl Bruce | XC 4205 | H 34 | Flight Accident |
|------------|------------|---------|------|-----------------|

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FOR THE RECORD, INC. AMERICAN FATALITY REPORT

| DATE | NAME | LOCATION | EQUIPMENT | REASON |
|-------------|---------------------|-------------|-----------|---|
| 19 May 1963 | Cornald A. Booth | TG-0014 | H-34 | Flight Accident |
| 19 May 1963 | Joseph Cheney | Muong Phine | C 46 | Battle Damage |
| 19 May 1963 | John Cooney | MC 4305 | H-34 | Flight Accident |
| 19 May 1963 | Ralph C. Davis | MC 4313 | Porter | Flight Accident Possible Battle Damage |
| 19 May 1963 | Wayne DeMinger | Phu Haim | Helio | Flight Accident |
| 19 May 1963 | William J. Irasor | Hanoi Ma | Bell 205 | Explosion/Fire Battle Damage |
| 19 May 1963 | Norman A. Grimmer | TG 0113 | Bell 204B | Explosion |
| 19 May 1963 | William J. Gibbs | TH 1070 | H-34 | Ground Fire |
| 19 May 1963 | Donald C. Heritage | Phu Haim | C-123 | Ground Fire |
| 19 May 1963 | Charles Hendrick | Muong Phine | C 46 | Battle Damage |
| 19 May 1963 | Emmons B. Pockings | Savannakhet | C 46 | Flight Accident |
| 19 May 1963 | Charles Jones | TG 3003 | H 34 | Flight Accident |
| 19 May 1963 | Richard H. Lieberth | XC 0345 | H 34 | Explosion in flight |

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| <u>DATE</u> | <u>NAME</u> | <u>LOCATION</u> | <u>EQUIPMENT</u> | <u>REASON</u> |
|------------------|------------------------|-----------------|------------------|-----------------|
| 29 May 1966 | Gordon Robertson | Long Tien | Porter | Flight Accident |
| 12 March 1967 | Carl Stone | Savannah | DO-28 | Flight Accident |
| 6 April 1967 | J. Preston Ruffaker | Northwest Laos | DO-28 | Unknown |
| 12 December 1967 | Mike Lepai | Northwest Laos | Porter | Unknown |
| 5 January 1969 | Harter | Udon/Vientiane | Baron | Flight Accident |
| 12 February 1969 | Irwin | Northwest Laos | Porter | Unknown |
| 15 August 1969 | Carl Angel | Southern Laos | Porter | Flight Accident |

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| DATE | NAME | LOCATION | EQUIPMENT | REASON |
|----------------|----------------------|-------------|-----------|---|
| 7 1 1963 | Patrick F. Mc Carthy | Houei Ma | Bell 205 | Explosion/Possible Battle Damage |
| 8 1 1967 | Dwight Z. Pirillo | TH 3368 | H 34 | Battle Damage |
| 12 1 1965 | William Smith | XC 3345 | H 34 | Exploded in Flight |
| 1 1 1969 | Glenn R. Wood | TG 8118 | Bell 204B | Explosion |
| 12 1 1964 | Glenn R. Wood | Long Tieng | C 123 | Fell to Death - Out of CD Drop A/C without chute |
| 17 July 1963 | Gideon Newton | Saysbourny | C 46 | Flight Accident |
| 17 July 1963 | Aubrey Wooten | Saysbourny | C 46 | Flight Accident |
| 18 10 1961 | David W. Devan | Pa Khao | C 46 | Flight Accident |
| 18 August 1961 | Farrell A. Eubanks | Pa Khao | C 46 | Flight Accident |
| 13 Aug 1961 | John S. Lewis | Pa Khao | C 46 | Flight Accident |
| 12 Feb 1969 | Robert H. Crono | TJ 4014 | Porter | Unknown |
| 25 Nov 1963 | Lester Porter | Savannakhet | C 46 | Flight Accident |

EMPLOYEES WHO WERE PASSENGERS~~SECRET~~

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| | | | |
|--|--|---------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| TO : D/OCA | | CONTROL # OCA 0184-92 | DATE OF REQUEST 23 Jan 92 |
| FROM : DD/SA via DD/OCA | | SUSPENSE DATE | |
| SUBJECT : Letter to Senators Kerry/Smith re POW/MIA - 20 Dec 91 incoming ltr | | | |
| NOTES | | | |
| COORDINATED WITH (list names as well as offices) | | | |
| NAME DDO | | OFFICE | DATE |
| NAME | | OFFICE | DATE |
| NAME | | OFFICE | DATE |
| NAME | | OFFICE | DATE |
| ACTION REQUIRED BY D/OCA | | | |
| For your signature | | | |

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POW/MIA Affairs

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JOHN F. KERRY, MASSACHUSETTS,
Chairman
THOMAS A. DASCHLE, SOUTH DAKOTA
HARRY REID, NEVADA
CHARLES S. ROSS, VIRGINIA
J. ROBERT KERREY, NEBRASKA
HERBERT H. KOHL, WISCONSIN

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FRANCES A. ZWENIG, STAFF DIRECTOR
ALAN C. PTAK, DEPUTY STAFF DIRECTOR
J. WILLIAM CODINHA, GENERAL COUNSEL

United States Senate

SELECT COMMITTEE ON POW/MIA AFFAIRS

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6500
December 20, 1991

Rec'd. in ER
@ 1630
on 20 Dec 91

Mr. Robert Gates
Director of Central Intelligence
Central Intelligence Agency
Washington, DC 20505

Dear Bob:

We are writing to request information from the Central Intelligence Agency pertaining to Laos and the POW/MIA issue. This information is essential for the Senate Select Committee on POW/MIA Affairs to carry out its responsibilities under Senate Resolution 82 and Senate Resolution 185.

Specifically, we request the following items:

1. Please provide to the committee full names and current last known residential and business addresses for Central Intelligence Agency Chiefs of Station, Deputy Chiefs of Station, and any other personnel with responsibilities for POW/MIA matters assigned to the U.S. Embassy in Vientiane, Laos, and the U.S. Embassy in Bangkok, Thailand, for each year between the period of 1961 to present.
2. Please provide to the committee any lists compiled or received by the Central Intelligence Agency which relate to U.S. citizens who have not returned from Laos during the period of 1961 to present as a result of assignments in or over Laos prior to 1975.
3. Please provide to the committee any lists in the possession of the Central Intelligence Agency which have been received by the United States Government from foreign governments or contacts, or individuals which relate to U.S. personnel who have not returned from Laos.
4. Please provide the names of U.S. citizens who were assigned to Air America, Continental Air Services, or any other CIA proprietary organization and have not returned from Laos.
5. Please provide the full names and last known residential and business addresses for personnel assigned to

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Mr. Robert Gates
December 20, 1991
page 2

the security office of Air America in Vientiane Airport during the period of Air America's existence.

Your cooperation in providing this information to the select committee prior to January 20, 1992 will be most appreciated.

If any of these items contain classified information, please provide such material directly to the Office of Senate Security, S.407, U.S. Capitol.

Should you have any questions on this matter, please contact Mr. Dino Carluccio on the committee staff at (202) 224-2306.

Sincerely,



JOHN F. KERRY
Chairman



BOB SMITH
Vice Chairman

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DD/ISA

OCA
Action Plan for
Congressional Correspondence
to the DCI

23 DEC 1991

Date

DCI:

A response will be prepared
for your signature with
input from _____.

☐

OCA will respond in consultation
with DD.

☒

2 letters attached

No written response is necessary.

☐

CONCUR

☐

I prefer

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IMMEDIATE

Central Intelligence Agency
Washington, D.C. 20505

Executive Secretariat

20 Dec '91

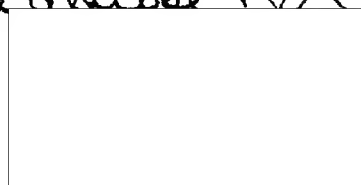
DOCA:

Stan-

Gen. Kerry's staff just
faxed the att'd. two letters
(simulation w/ mailing the
sig.). Response requested
by Do Jan.

Do you want me to process
these now as if they are
the originals?

Please advise. Y



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DD/O 0025/015-92

14 January 1992

MEMORANDUM FOR:

[redacted]
Chief, Senate Liaison Division
Office of Congressional Affairs

VIA: Office of the Deputy Director for Operations

FROM:

SUBJECT: CIA Information Pertaining to Station
Personnel in Laos and Vietnam, U.S. Personnel
who did not return from Laos; and Air American
Security OfficersREFERENCE: Letter of 20 December 1991 from Senators Kerry
and Smith of the Select Committee on POW/MIA
Affairs to the DCI

1. This is in reply to the letter of 20 December 1991 which requested information on former senior Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) personnel in Laos and Vietnam and on U.S. citizens who had not returned from Laos from 1961 to the present as a result of assignments in or over Laos prior to 1975.

2. The full names for CIA Chiefs of Station [redacted] and [redacted] are attached. The addresses of retired officers are provided and we will facilitate the Committee's contact with Agency officers who are still on active duty.

3. The Agency possesses two lists relating to U.S. citizens who have not returned from Laos during the period 1961 to the present. The first is the DIA list of "U.S. Unaccounted for in Southeast Asia". The second is a list compiled at CIA Headquarters on 30 September 1969 entitled, "American Air Contractor Operating Crew Fatalities (in) Laos, 1961 to Present". A copy of the second list is attached. That list

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showed two American civilians as missing in Laos: Air America employee Eugene H. DeBruin, who is still listed as missing; and Bird & Son employee Ernest Brace, who returned on 28 March 1973.

4. We have reviewed our files but have not located any lists received by the United States Government from foreign governments, contacts or individuals which relate to U.S. individuals who have not returned from Laos. We will be reviewing a considerable volume of archived files in the coming week and will advise the committee if any material on this subject is located. *spelling*

5. In addition to the 1969 list of "American Air Contractor Operating Crew Fatalities (in) Laos, 1961 to Present" mentioned above, the following U.S. citizens, all of whom were working for Air America, did not return from Laos:

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Attachment: "American Air Contractor Operating Crew Fatalities
Laos, 1961 to (1969)"

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